(e) Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Centre for Advance Technology

3796. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT) of the Department of Atomic Energy has granted recognition to the All India Institute of Medical Science as one of the centres for evaluation of medical applications of lasers (Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation);

(b) if so, whether Government have given such recognitions to other Institute of Medical Sciences in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT) of the Department of Atomic Energy has not granted recognition to any institute for evaluation of medical application of lasers. But CAT has provided funds to the following five medical institutes to carry out research in medical applications of lasers :-

1. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
2. Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.
3. Seth G.S. Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai,
4. Choithram Hospital and Research Centre, Indore.
5. Vivekananda Institute of Medical Science, Calcutta.

The feedback from them has helped CAT to improve the design of lasers.

Construction of Revenue Tower

3797. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC) had undertaken the construction of Revenue Tower at Thodupuzha in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the contract has now been cancelled by the Kerala Government unilaterally;

(d) if so, whether the NBCC propose to claim compensation from the Kerala Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The construction of Revenue Power comprising a 6 storeyed complex with a basement including pile foundation and RCC framed structure was awarded to NBCC by the Kerala State Housing Board in November, 1995, at a cost of Rs. 3.32 crores.

(c) to (e) The project Manager, Kerala State Housing Board, has intimated NBCC that the Board has decided to settle NBCC's bill for the works completed and to terminate the contract. NBCC has claimed in addition to settlement of the running account bill, compensation for Mobilisation and demobilisation of rigs, and Idle charges for staff, workers, machinery etc.

[Translation]

Land and Accommodation for Landless Farmers

3798. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals have been received from State Governments for the allocation of funds for making arrangements of land and accomodation for landless farmers of the States has been pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for pendency of these proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment have not received from the State Governments any proposal for allocation of funds for making arrangements of land and accommodation for landless farmers of the States. Hence the question of details and reasons for pendency does not arise.

[English]

Oil Refinery

3799. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the pilferage of oil from Noohmati Oil Refinery at Guwahati at various stages;

(b) if so, the amount of loss incurred so far;

(c) whether the Government propose of take immediate steps to check this pilferage; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No Pilferage of OIL has been reported from Guwahati Refinery.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Encroachment of Village Land

3800. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Law enforcers turn offenders" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 2, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The attention of the Government has been drawn to the concerned news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 2.3.1997. Since the order of the Consolidation Officer in the concerned village is now pending before the Financial Commissioner of Delhi, who has stayed the order and a final decision in this regard is yet to be taken by the concerned competent authority, this Ministry does not like to pass any comments judgement on this subject.

Uri Power Project

3801. SHRI ANANT GUDH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "2000 crore scandal in URI Power Project" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 27, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The allegation that there was mis-appropriation and manipulation in the cost of Uri Hydro-electric Project (480 MW) in Jammu and Kashmir is not based on facts. The project was sanctioned in June 1989 at a cost of Rs. 1632.62 crores (March 1989 price level) on turn-key execution with bilateral foreign assistance from Sweden and United Kingdom. The completion period of the Project was six years from the date of start of works and the project was to be completed by November 1995 but, due to disturbed conditions in the project site, there was a delay in completion of the project which in now scheduled for May 1997. The latest estimated completion cost of the project is about Rs. 3300 crores. The increase of Rs. 1667 crores in the project cost is mainly due to exchange rate variation and extra interest liability due to delay in completion of the project. These have together contributed to an increase in the cost by about 80 per cent; the balance being due to price escalation and increase in taxes and duties etc.

Funds for Centrally Aided Schemes

3802. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of centrally-aided schemes already approved by the Government for the municipalities In the Darjeeling Hills and Siliguri Corporation; and

(b) the scheme-wise allocation of Funds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The details are as under :-

1. SCHEME OF INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM TOWNS (IDSMT) :

Under the IDSMT Scheme, Darjeeling and Siliguri towns were covered during the 6th Five Year Plan. The approved project cost were Rs. 113.37 lakhs and Rs. 107.26 lakhs and the amounts of Central Assistance provided were Rs. 47.19 lakhs and Rs. 52.15 lakhs respectively.

2. SCHEME OF URBAN BASIC SERVICES TO THE POOR (UBSP) :

Siliguri is one of the 28 towns in West Bengal selected for UBSP. Under the Scheme, bulk allocation is provided to State Government for funding projects of towns. During 1996-97, a sum of Rs. 136.45 lakhs has been released by the Government of India to the Government of West Bengal.

3. PRIME MINISTER'S INTEGRATED URBAN POVERTY ERADICATION PROGRAMME (PMI UPEP) :

The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP) launched in November, 1995 is applicable to Darjeeling town. Under the Scheme, bulk allocation is provided to State Government for funding projects of towns. During 1995-96, a sum of Rs. 679.43 lakhs and during 1996-97, Rs. 300.06 lakhs have been released by the Government of India to the Government of West Bengal.